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A BRIEF HISTORY

of

Newport, Maine

by

W. H. Mitchell

1814-1914

A Broad Expanse

OF

Lake Sebasticook

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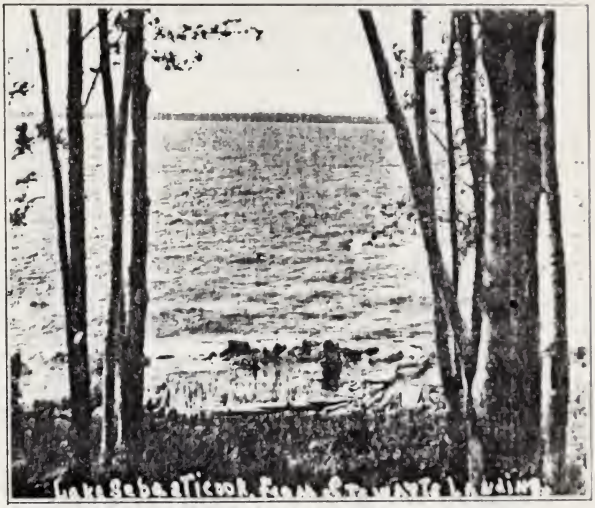

A Broad Expanse of Lake Sebasticook, Newport, Maine

Newport, Maine

1914

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NEWPORT, MAINE

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ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF NEWPORT FOR THE YEAR 1814

Moderator
JAMES FOOTMAN

Clerk
BENJAMIN SHAW

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor
JETHRO SANBORN, WILLIAM MARTIN, SAMUEL HAYDEN

Treasurer
WILLIAM MARTIN

Collector and Constable
JESSE ROWE

Surveyors of Highways
WILLIAM MAINE, DANIEL STUART, ARETAS ROWE,
JAMES FOOTMAN, JOSEPH SMALL

Culler of Staves and Hoops
THOMAS STEWARD

Fence Viewers
NATHANIEL STUART, JAMES WILSON

Surveyors of Lumber
NATHANIEL MARTIN, BENJ. SHAW

Tythingmen
JESSE MILES, JAMES FOOTMAN, JAMES WILSON

Hog Reeves
BENJAMIN FIELD, JOHN TURNER, DAVID WILSON,
DANIEL IRELAND

Field Drivers
JOHN NORTON, DANIEL CHADBURNE, WILLIAM HOLBROOK,
THOMAS BICKNELL

Pound Keeper
WILLIAM MARTIN

ELECTED OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF NEWPORT FOR THE YEAR 1914

Moderator
FORRESTER B. BURNS

Clerk
FRANK N. MERRILL

Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of the Poor
EDWIN R. LEACH, DANIEL W. WHEELER, ADELBERT L. GRAY

Town Agent
WILLIAM H. MITCHELL

Treasurer
JOHN O. GILMAN

Superintending School Committee
CHARLES M. BARBOUR (elected in 1912), ALFRED M. MORRILL (elected in 1913), SAMUEL P. IRELAND (elected in 1914)

Engineers Fire Department
JOHN E. HEFFEREN, Chief; CHAS. W. BRANN, 1st Asst.; A. EARL ELLIS, 2nd Asst.

Constables
JOHN E. HEFFEREN, EDGAR R. DOW, ALVIE E. WOODMAN

Auditor
HUBERT M. WARDWELL

Collector
JUDSON E. OAKES

Committee to Enforce Town Ordinances
JOHN E. HEFFEREN, EDGAR R. DOW, ALVIE E. WOODMAN

Sexton Riverside Cemetery
HOLLIS W. BRACKETT

Superintendent of Schools
WILLIAM C. MCCUE

Introductory

To the many residents, past and present, of Newport, and to the multitude of visitors to this favored spot, our town needs no argument as to what nature has done in the way of natural advantages, or as to what man has accomplished in the developing and building of a public-spirited community. We recognize with a feeling of gratitude the fact that the town has been so well favored in its natural advantages, and we appreciate what has been done by man in the substantial progress that has been made since the early settlement of Newport. Much credit is due to those early pioneers for their courage and patient industry in the clearing of the primeval forests, the tilling of the soil and the building of comfortable homes for their families. From time to time during the first seventy-five years of the town's history industries were established, only to pass out of existence in one way or another. The lack of transportation facilities of the earlier days, the passing of old-time machinery and methods, and, above all else, the ravages of fire, all combined to retard the material development of the town until with the awakening of the citizens to the necessity of suitable fire protection as a preliminary measure, and then the putting of shoulder to shoulder in a concerted and united effort, combined to the realization of the permanent and successful modern industries of today, thus marking the new era in the history of our town.

This little book is intended to cover in a brief and imperfect manner the entire history of Newport, both ancient and modern. In the collection of the data of the early history of the town the author has derived substantial assistance in the preparation of this work through the writings of Francis M. Shaw, who was for many years clerk and historian of the town, and a citizen highly esteemed by his many acquaintances. Mr. Shaw was justly regarded as authority on the early history of Newport and the town is fortunate in the possession of valuable manuscript copied from the scrap book in which he so carefully preserved data of historical interest.

W. H. Mitchell.

Newport, Maine, May 1st, 1914.

Newport, Maine

Incorporated as the 208th town in the District of Maine, by act of the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, approved June 14th, 1814. Originally Township No. 4 in the Third Range north of the Waldo Patent, as surveyed by Ephriam Ballard and Samuel Weston in the year 1792, containing 23,040 acres, more or less. A part of Lincoln County until the year 1789, when Hancock County was incorporated, and in the latter until the setting off of Penobscot County in 1816. First organized as East Pond Plantation, so named from the Great East Pond, as Lake Sebasticook was then called. As a part of the Commonwealth lands the entire township was contracted for purchase by one John Hubbard of Readfield in the year 1795; subsequently Mr. Hubbard assigned his contract to David Greene of Boston, and the latter became the owner in fee of the entire township by deed executed by the committee appointed by the General Court of Massachusetts to convey Commonwealth lands, and it is a coincidence that the deed bears the date of June 14th, 1800, exactly fourteen years prior to the incorporation as a town. The price paid by Mr. Greene to the Commonwealth was $5,635, or about seventeen cents per acre, for the township; this price was considered a large sum when the township was contracted for by Mr. Hubbard, and he so expressed himself to the committee on sale of the public lands. Lots one, two, nine and ten, in the Fourth Range of township lots, were reserved in the deed for ministerial and school purposes, these four lots comprising 1280 acres, and from the sale of these lots the sum of $2400 was derived, which sum is held by the town and the interest thereon paid annually to the common school fund.

Great East Pond, containing some six thousand acres, is situated nearly in the center of the town, with three inlets and one outlet—the latter the east branch of the Sebasticook River,—and all were famous for their fish and game previous to actual

settlement of the township, for we are informed that prior to the year 1800 trappers came up the river and spent much of the season. The first settler was named James Houstin, who came from Fairfield in the year 1800, made a small clearing and erected a log house on Birch Point, where he lived for several years. Afterwards he lived in a camp he made at or near the junction of Martin Stream with the Sebasticook River, and here he died and was buried in the year 1817. Houstin was a single man and a great trapper in his day. It is supposed that as early as 1803 two log houses were erected in the present village of Newport; one near the shore of the lake about where the old town house is located; the other on the east bank of the river near the present middle bridge. The first authentic account we have of a permanent settlement was in the year 1807, when Deacon John Ireland with his family came through the woods from Bloomfield (now a part of Skowhegan), the women on horseback, the boys on foot, and located in North Newport on the farm now owned by Frank Ireland, where a small clearing had been made and a camp built by Mr. Ireland and his boys the previous year (1806), when they had explored this section of the township. James Stuart located on the lot south of Deacon John Ireland; Nathaniel Burrill settled on the shore of the Pond and made the first clearing of what is now the Turner farm; Daniel Bicknell of Massachusetts purchased some six hundred acres and located the Ira Shepardson farm (since cut up into smaller farms, now owned by J. E. Shepardson, D. S. Hilliker, and others); these four, with Elam Pratt, were the first settlers at North Newport and the first permanent settlers in the town, all locating here in 1807. Among the early settlers in the village, or the Mill District as it was first called, was Esquire Benjamin Shaw, who, with Iphidiah Ring, came here from Deerfield, N. H., in the year 1808. 'Squire Shaw purchased all the land between the Pond and what is now Main Street, and from the river westerly to what is now West Street. He built a log house near where the present double tenement on North Street stands and hired Sanborn Elkins of Palmyra and Houstin, the trapper, to fell six acres of trees; this clearing was from the Pond southerly and was the first made on

the west side of the river. A little later 'Squire Shaw erected the first frame house, now a part of the double tenement on North Street, and afterwards built the house now owned by Elbridge Ring at the corner of North and High Streets, where the first town meeting was held. Iphidiah Ring located on the hill and made the clearing for the present Libby farm. Two years later (1810) Robert Stuart located across the road from Ring and cleared what was afterwards known as the Henry Marsh farm. The same year James Stuart located the Moses Stuart farm further up the hill, and Nathaniel Martin located the farm now owned and occupied by J. L. Lewis. About this same time Isaac Lawrence located in the easterly part of the town near the Billings Hill. A saw mill was built by Esq Shaw and Daniel Stuart near the present middle bridge, while Chandler Hopkins opened the first store near the upper bridge The second frame house was built by Parker Eaton and is now the ell of the old-time Prescott tavern, now owned by Geo. W. Hanson. The first settled ministers were Rev. John Whitney of the Methodist denomination, and Rev. John York of the Free Baptists; these were here as early as 1810. The first school was opened in the house of Iphidiah Ring and was taught by Miss Pluma Judkins, who afterwards married a Mr. Morrill and some of her descendants are among the younger of our citizens.

The first formal gathering of the citizens of the town was at the house of Robert Stuart in the year 1812, and the object of the meeting was for mutual defence against the Indians, who, report said, were intending to massacre the white settlers. 'Squire Shaw presided as chairman and a committee of five was chosen; who, after due deliberation, brought in the following report: "That each head of family should prepare himself with a pound of powder and balls, put new flints in guns and keep them well loaded and hung up over the fire-place for immediate use in case of attack. Also that the women should keep kettles of water hot with suitable articles to throw the same, and that all the boys should keep a sharp look-out that they may not be surprised." The report was accepted unanimously and the meeting adjourned. A few days later the In

dians came by way of the Stetson Stream, one hundred and fifty strong, and camped on Birch Point. Two citizens, with a flag of truce, volunteered to go and interview them and ascertain their intentions. During their absence the citizens took down the old flintlock muskets, the women saw to it that the kettles were filled with boiling water and all preparations were made for a brave defense. The two volunteers returned and reported that the chief said they were of the Penobscot tribe and had fled from the St. John tribe, with whom they had had trouble, and the Penobscots thought that the St. Johns were coming over to fight them. These Indians spent about ten days trapping and hunting in the vicinity and then departed down the river. Their mode of travel was by way of the Kenduskeag Stream to Stetson; carry across to Stetson Pond; thence to Great East Pond and so on to the Kennebec; this was the Indian highway between the two great rivers of Maine, and from it originated the name of Newport, so called because it afforded a portage for the Indians in their route to and from the Penobscot and the Sebasticook.

During the few years previous to the war of 1812 settlers had continued to come in until East Pond Township had sixty-two inhabitants by the census of 1810, and nearly one hundred by the year 1812. The following year the population had so increased that a movement was made to incorporate the town and a petition was drawn up and signed by forty-two voters of the township, as follows: "To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in General Court assembled in January, 1814. Humbly Shew. The subscribers, inhabitants of Plantation No. 4, third range north of the Waldo Patent, lying partly in the County of Somerset and partly in the County of Hancock, that within said Plantation there are now more than one hundred inhabitants who are now suffering many and great inconveniences by reason of not being incorporated. We, the subscribers, therefore pray your Honors to incorporate us into a town by the name of Newport; and as the communication to a place for a market is nearer and easier to Penobscot river than it is to any place on the Kennebec river, we entreat your Honors

that you will annex us wholly to the County of Hancock, and as in duty bound will ever pray."

This petition received favorable consideration and finally, on the fourteenth day of June, 1814, Newport became an incorporated town.

The warrant for the first town meeting was issued by Simeon Stetson, a Justice of the Peace living in the town of Hampden, and read as follows:

"To Benjamin Shaw, Esq., of Newport in the County of Hancock. Greeting: You are hereby requested in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to summon and notify the free holders and other inhabitants of said town qualified by law to vote in town meetings, viz:—such as pay to one single tax beside the poll or polls a sum equal to two-thirds of a single poll tax, to assemble at your own dwelling house in said Town on Monday the fifth day of September next, at ten of the Clock in the forenoon, to act on the following Articles, viz:

Article 1 To choose a Moderator to govern said meeting.

" 2 To choose a Town Clerk.

" 3 To choose three, five, seven or nine suitable and discreet persons of good conversation, inhabitants of the town, to be Selectmen.

" 4 Overseers of the poor, any number not exceeding twelve.

" 5 A suitable person to be Treasurer.

" 6 Three or more suitable persons to be Assessors of taxes.

" 7 A meet person to be Constable.

" 8 A meet person or persons to be Collector of taxes.

" 9 Two or more suitable persons to be Surveyors of highways.

" 10 One or more suitable persons to be surveyors and measurers of boards, planks, timber and slit wood.

" 11 One or more suitable persons for viewers and cullars of staves and hoops.

" 12 Two or more discreet and judicious persons, being inhabitants of the town, for Fence viewers.

" 13 Two or more suitable persons to be Tythingmen.
" 14 Two or more persons for Hog reeves.
" 15 A suitable person for Pound Keeper.
" 16 Two or more persons for field drivers.
" 17 To see if the town will direct in what way and method town meetings shall be warned in future.

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings into the clerk's office at the said day and meeting.

Dated at Hampden, this the sixteenth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fourteen.

(Signed) Simeon Stetson, Justice of the Peace."

The return on the warrant read as follows:

"Newport, Sept. 5, 1814.

In obedience to the within warrant I have notified the inhabitants as within directed. (Signed) Benjamin Shaw."

Agreeably to this call the town meeting was duly held and the following officers were elected—Moderator, James Footman; Town Clerk, Benjamin Shaw; Selectmen, Assessors and Overseers of Poor, Jethro Sanborn, William Martin and Samuel Hayden; Treasurer, William Martin; Collector and Constable, Jesse Rowe. The remaining offices were all filled and it was voted that future town meetings be notified by posting two warrants, one in the Mill District at the mill, and one at Samuel Hayden's, at North Newport. The second town meeting was held at Mr. Hayden's dwelling house on Sept. 23rd of the same year, at which it was voted that the selectmen, together with James Footman and Benjamin Shaw, be a committee to lay out town roads; it was also voted "That if any labour is done on the roads where they may be hereafter accepted, those who do the same shall have pay for it at the apprisal of the surveyors." William Martin, John Ireland, Daniel Bicknell, Jethro Sanborn and Jesse Rowe were selected as a committee to divide the town into road and school districts. It was voted to accept a road commencing at Thomas Steward's in the southwest corner of lot No. 7 in the Fifth Range, thence running west to Sandy Point; from thence in the best direction around the Pond to the east bank of the northwest inlet, a distance of about two miles. This is the first record of a road

within the town, although doubtless some others had already been laid out. It was voted that the selectmen be a committee of safety for the purpose of procuring arms and ammunition at the expense of the town and "that all reasonable charges therefor be paid by the treasurer." The third town meeting was held at the house of Isaac Lawrence in the east part of the town on Nov. 5th of the same year, at which action was had in relation to laying out other roads.

The fourth town meeting was held at the home of William Martin in the Mill District on Monday, the sixth day of March, 1815, and this one appears to have been the commencement of our annual town meetings as regards the time of holding the meetings. The first town meeting for the election of Commonwealth officers was held April 3rd, 1815, when 68 votes were thrown for Governor; Samuel Dexter receiving 58 and Caleb Strong 10. At this meeting the town was divided into six school districts, the same to be highway districts, and agents were appointed as follows: Jesse Miles in No. 1; Iphidiah Ring in No. 2; Reuben Dennett in No. 3; James Gordon in No. 4; Isaac Burnett in No. 5, and Sylvanus Whiting in No. 6. It was decided to build a bridge across the northwest inlet at an expense of three hundred dollars. The sum of $1,500 was voted for highways (a very large amount for those days), $300 for schools and $100 for town charges.

For many years after Newport became a town it was the practice to hold the annual town meeting for the election of town officers, in the month of March or April, when the qualification for voting required that the voter should pay a single property tax equal to two-thirds of the poll tax. Then the annual meeting for the election of state and county officers would be held at another time in the month of April, when the qualification was that the voter should have a freehold estate of the annual income of three pounds, or any estate of the value of sixty pounds. The April meeting for the election of Commonmealth and county officers in the year 1815 was held at the home of Samuel Hayden in North Newport. The September town meeting of the same year at the dwelling of Daniel Stuart in the west part of the town. It was customary to hold two

town meetings each year for the consideration of town affairs, and the place for holding these meetings was changed from one section of the town to another to convenience the voters. In November, 1816, a special town meeting was held at the school house in district No. 2 to see about raising money for the repair of a county road; the sum of $60 was raised for that purpose and a committee was appointed "to see to it that the money was not wasted." This same year a committee of nine was appointed (three for each section of the town) to select and buy for the town such lots of land as they should agree upon for burying grounds; one and one-half acres for the Mill District, and one-half acre for each of the other two districts. No definite action was taken on burying grounds until seven years later (1823) when the town voted to accept the report of the committee and purchase one-half acre of land of Nathaniel Stuart, for the sum of $25, and one-half acre of Daniel Stuart, next to the school house lot in Dist. No. 2, for the sum of $30. Nathaniel Stuart came here from Kingston, N. H., in 1812, and located the Stuart farm on the Dexter road. Daniel Stuart, also of Kingston, came here in the year 1810 and located on the east side of the river in the Mill District; he purchased a large tract of land on the east side and built a log house on the site of what was afterwards the Buswell place, now the home of Dr. Hawthorne; subsequently he erected a frame dwelling that was the pride of the town for many years thereafter. The first school house had been built on the Wilson hill, directly opposite the present residence of W. S. Townsend, Esq., and before this (about the year 1813) a school was taught by one Daniel Veasey in the cellar kitchen of 'Squire' Shaw's house, for which Mr. Veasey received the sum of $10 for teaching twenty-six evenings, 'Squire Shaw giving the space and furnishing the fuel for warming the same. The school house lot in Dist. No. 2, above referred to, together with the burying ground lot of one-half acre mentioned, is situated on Elm Street, next south of the railroad tracks; the cemetery has long since been abandoned as a burying ground, while the old school building was changed over into a dwelling house that stands next beyond the old cemetery.

The first recorded marriage in town was performed by 'Squire Shaw at his residence in the Mill District, the contracting parties being James Clark and Miss Polly Lawrence. In 1818 a notable event happened in town, on Saturday the 14th of November, Caleb Shaw, a brother to 'Squire Benjamin, arrived in a wheeled vehicle from Bangor; this was the first wagon drawn by a horse ever seen in town, and it produced quite a sensation as it drew up to the store and post-office, near the upper bridge. After a stay of a few days with his brother Benjamin, Caleb drove through to the Kennebec; this being the first wheeled vehicle known to have been driven from the Penobscot to the Kennebec. At that time 'Squire Shaw owned nearly all the land westerly from the river to Palmyra town line, including the principal portion of the present village. To pay for this large tract of land he borrowed money from his nephew, Benjamin Shaw of Savannah, Georgia,—afterward of Palmyra and Newport,—and also borrowed from John Wilson of Brentwood, N. H. In the settlement of this loan, John Wilson took several hundred acres of land in payment, moved to Newport in 1818, and built the large square house on the hill, where E. J. Soper afterwards lived, already mentioned as the residence of W. S. Townsend at the present time.

Mr. Wilson was a surveyor and a school master; as a surveyor he laid out many of the streets of the west side of the village. Another large tract of the present village site was taken over by Benjamin Shaw in payment of the loan to his uncle, 'Squire Benjamin. The latter was a very prominent man in his day; was elected delegate to the constitutional convention that drafted the constitution of our state, and was the representative from this town to the first session of the Maine Legislature, at Portland.

As an illustration of the scarcity of money in those days, the following is copied from the town records of the annual meeting held in 1821: "Voted, to pay all the expenses of the present year (state and county tax excepted) in corn and grain, and to allow six shillings per bushel for corn and rye and nine shillings per bushel for wheat." After more deliberation and discussion, it was voted to reconsider the above vote, and "to allow one

dollar per bushel for wheat and four shillings per bushel for corn and rye, and that corn and grain shall be paid into the treasury on or before the first day of February, next, and the treasurer is to keep the bills till that time, after which all delinquent persons are to pay in cash." At this same meeting (1821) it was voted "that Gideon Leavitt, Benjamin Wilson and Josiah Hook be a committee to examine school masters and school mistresses," and they were sworn accordingly. This seems to have been the commencement of our present system of electing a school committee. In this same year it was voted to discontinue the use of gates and bars across the public roads. In the year 1825 it was voted "that no creatures shall be allowed to go at large on the public highways for the year ensuing."

By the Federal census of 1820 the population of the town had increased to 520. About that time a business firm of Gardiner saw that Newport was a town of increasing prosperity and decided to open a branch store here. In those days nearly all of the village was centered near the present upper bridge, except the mills which were near the present middle bridge. The Gardiner firm secured a small building located on the east bank of the river and sent the goods up the Kennebec and Sebasticook rivers in boats under charge of a young man named Zebulon Sanger, in their employ, who opened the second store in town. Two years later the Gardiner firm failed and young Sanger continued the Newport store on his own account. The descendants of this young storekeeper have achieved notable distinction in their chosen profession in the city of Bangor. In those days town paupers were "farmed out" and bid off to those who would maintain them to the best advantage of the town. It is recorded that Elisha Philbrook was allowed $35 for the keeping of Jane Capers for one year; while Daniel Bicknell bid off Edward Moody and agreed to give the town one dollar and fifty cents per month. Jacob Pratt bid off Jacob Moody and agreed to give the town one dollar and twenty-eight cents per month. Abijah B. Wright agreed to take Robert Moody and to give him a good pair of shoes. Samuel York bid off James Moody and was paid by the town twenty-four cents per week for keeping him.

The town having by act of the Maine Legislature of 1823 secured to itself the exclusive right to all salmon, shad and alewives within the limits of the town, it was "Resolved, That the privilege of taking fish shall be sold to some person, being an inhabitant of the town for the present season (1823) to the highest bidder, under the following rules and regulations: Viz:—The contractor shall have the exclusive right to take fish from sunrise Monday morning until sunset Thursday night of each week during their run, and every fish taken by him or by persons in his employ at any other time shall be deemed a violation of the law and subject to the penalties hereafter named; and no person other than the contractor or his employee shall be allowed to take fish at any time within the town, subject to a fine of ten cents for each alewive; fifty cents for each shad, and one dollar for each salmon. The contractor shall deliver fish as equally as the nature of the case will allow among the people at the following prices; viz: for fresh alewives, thirty-three cents per hundred, or three for a cent; for shad, ten cents each, and for salmon eight cents per pound. And it shall be his duty to sell all the fish applied for fresh and to salt the remainder at his own discretion; and the contractor shall give security to the town for the amount voted." This resolution was presented by Benj. Shaw, John Wilson and James White, committee for the town, and was unanimously adopted. Nathaniel Stuart and Nathaniel Martin bid off the fishing privilege for that year, paying therefor the sum of $21.50.

It was also the practice in early years to pay for bushing out a road across the lake in the winter season, and at the town meeting of Sept. 8th, 1823, it was "Voted, to bush out the road from Nathaniel Burrill's to the outlet, set in a straight line by holes cut in the ice twenty rods apart, and the job to be sold at auction to the lowest bidder," and it was sold to Jesse Prescott at four shillings. At this same meeting it was "Voted, to furnish provisions for the Soldiers of the town on Regimental Review this year and put it up at auction to the lowest bidder, and Nathaniel Stuart bid off a dinner of as much Beef, Mutton and Bread as was wanted, together with half a pint of W. I.

Pleasure Steamer at Village Wharf

Rum to a Soldier, with the addition of one good Cheese with their dinner, at twenty-three cents for each such Soldier."

This year (1823) another store was opened on the west side of the river by Joseph Lord, the building used for that purpose being now a part of the Merrill residence, corner of Water and North Sts. Licenses for the sale of spirituous liquors were granted for the first time in this same year to Zebulon Sanger, Joseph Lord and John Billings; previous to this liquors had been sold without license or regulation of any kind.

In 1825 the village had but one street, better known as the south county or stage road; commencing at the Palmyra town line, thence easterly across the river by what is now called North Street; thence southerly by what is now called Elm Street on the east side of the river. The stage from Skowhegan succeeded in making the round trip to Bangor in two days, and its arrival was more of an event than the coming and going of all the trains of a day at the present time. The present dwelling of Elbridge Ring, the double tenement on North Street, and the present residence of A. R. Croxford on Elm Street, are the land marks of the village of one hundred years ago.

INDUSTRIES PRIOR TO THE YEAR 1891

In the spring of 1831 Benjamin Shaw 2nd and Enoch C., his brother, came to Newport and bought the double tenement house on North Street. This they reconstructed as we see it now, and in the west end of which they opened a store for general country trade. Benjamin Shaw 2nd had resided in Georgia for a dozen years previous to coming to Newport and had been interested in the production of silk from the worm. Visiting a silk factory in Poughkeepsie, N. Y., about the year 1834, he became convinced that the silk industry could be successfully carried on in Maine. He accordingly ordered mulberry slips and set them out here; two years later the mulberries were large enough to sustain a colony of worms and eggs of the India silk worm were purchased and duly hatched, producing about fifteen hundred silk worms; these were fed daily on the tender leaves of the mulberry and a small quantity of silk was produced the first year. At first the worms were kept in a chamber of the house, but later on the store was used and fitted up for the silk business, the stock in trade having been moved to another building in the south part of the village. Benjamin Shaw 2nd was the father of the late Francis M. Shaw, and we are indebted to the latter for much of the material that appears in this historial sketch of the town. In his write-up on silk culture in Newport, Francis M. Shaw relates the following interesting account of the process of silk production: "As soon as the leaves were dry in the morning it was 'Come, boys, get your baskets,' which meant two hours in the mulberry patch. With signs of an approaching shower not only the boys but all the family must pick leaves before the rain struck, as the worms cannot eat wet leaves and live. Sometimes a rain storm would oblige us to pick wet leaves which must be carefully dried. Even the cat had to do her part, as mice would make sad havoc among the nearly mature worms. I have seen hornets come in at an open window and sail away with a worm an inch long. The larger the worms become the more the care; they must be changed often from one table to another, as the health of the silk worm depends upon its cleanliness; this work is all done

by hand picking and in the most careful manner. They shed the skin several times during the two months of worm life, at which times they must be taken from the tables where the worms are left. During the time of skin shedding they refuse to eat, but after a successful undressing they will more than make up in appetite. At maturity they cease to eat and seek for places to build the cocoon. We then arranged shelves immediately back of the tables against the walls. The most convenient shelves were made with clapboards laid up with thin strips, leaving one and one-quarter inch space. The worms would soon discover the convenient spaces and go up, commencing the work of cocoon immediately. Sometimes two worms would insist upon building two cocoons together, which we did not allow, if discovered, as double cocoons are not good for reeling, for two worms will make cross threads which will not run. After spinning is over the shelves are carefully taken down and the cocoons placed in baskets. As many as were required for the next year's operations were saved out, and the others were baked in a hot oven, else in time they would cut out and spoil the cocoon for reeling. The time that elapses from the finished cocoon to the coming out of the moth is about three weeks; therefore the baking must be attended to immediately. After the second year we had about four bushels of cocoons to care for. When the moth came out we placed them on paper in a darkened room and the eggs were deposited in clusters; the eggs are then kept in a cool room for the following year. The methods employed by my mother in the manufacture of silk were crude when compared with those of the present day; nevertheless she attained good results. It was a great curiosity in a country town and many times I have seen the old Hampden stove surrounded by neighbors, earnestly watching the process which mother would explain as she worked: 'You see I place as many cocoons in this kettle of boiling water as I want threads; as soon as the natural gum which the worm throws off in spinning dissolves, I stir them around with this stick, securing all the ends, and then reel them off thus.' Suiting the action to the word, the bright glossy thread would assume the form of a beautiful skein on the old-fashioned reel,

which with the spinning wheel, constituted the entire machinery used. The dyeing was done according to the demand for colors; most of the silk being kept in the natural unbleached white, with some black and occasionally some crimson. But little silk was sold and few people who came to see the process went away without a souvenir skein. The making of silk at that time was not so much for the immediate profit as it was to determine whether the worm and the mulberry could be successfully raised in Maine. The business was continued, as I remember, for about eight years; each autumn and early winter being the season of converting the cocoons into sewing silk of different degrees of fineness, quality always the same. The mulberry blight of 1843-4 caused an abandonment of the business. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were in Chicago in 1848, and, having a sample of the silk with them, Mrs. Shaw placed it on exhibition at the Mechanics' Fair, then being held in that city, for which exhibit she was awarded a silver medal, inscribed 'Awarded to Mrs. Benjamin Shaw for the best knitting silk raised from silk worms.'"

In 1830 Nathan Merriam operated a twelve-pit tannery on the westerly bank of the river, just below the present middle bridge. Across the river, directly opposite this tannery, William Martin operated a grist and saw mill, getting out three hundred thousand feet of sawed lumber and grinding three thousand bushels of corn and grain, annually. The remains of the old wing dam may still be seen at low water in the bed of the river, below the middle bridge, near the easterly side of the stream. Samuel Weed and John Wilson, Jr., owned and operated a carding mill in the tannery yard, on the westerly side; while Zebulon Sanger had a potash plant further up on the same side of the river. Hiram Ordway had a brick yard near the present Camp Benson Grounds, producing fifty thousand brick annually. James Benjamin was the village smith and Justus Kerby the wagon maker. Joseph Lord and Justus Kerby had the only stores in town. There was but one riding wagon and that was a two-wheeled chaise owned by William Martin, who, doubtless, was envied by all his fellow citizens. The population of the town in 1830 was 868; the state tax assessed to the town

was $72.03, being the seventh largest in the county, then including what is now Piscataquis and a large section of Aroostook county. In 1840 the population had increased to 1138; the valuation was $187,522, and the tax paid the state was $190.52. Joseph Southwick and Mark Fisher had constructed and were then operating a tannery valued at $5500, with a stock on hand of $10,000; Frederick Ray had a saw mill valued at $2000; William Martin a grist mill valued at $1000; Kirby and Chapin a store of the value of $800, with $1000 stock in trade; Shaw and Mason a store of the value of $300, with $800 stock. Thomas F. Dexter was just commencing the manufacture of carriages, sleighs and pungs and owned a small shop assessed for $125. John Day was the village smith and Jeremiah Prescott sawed shingles. There were one hundred and sixty-one dwelling houses in the town, of which number forty-eight were in the village. The number of wagons had increased to five; four in the village and one owned by Daniel Ireland at North Newport. There were 165 horses and 17 colts, 123 oxen, 283 cows, and 278 swine in the town.

In the year 1838 Mark Fisher came to Newport from Levant, and, in company with Joseph Southwick, built what was at that time the largest tannery in the state, located on the easterly side of the river, just below the present lower bridge, and extending along the stream on both sides of the railroad tracks; traces of the old tannery pits may still be seen below the railroad embankment, directly in the rear of the abandoned cemetery on Elm St. Mr. Fisher resided in Newport for about ten years and during that period he perfected and took out patents for the welding together of cast iron and cast steel; something that had heretofore been deemed impossible to accomplish. This combination proved of great value in the manufacture of anvils at a foundry which Mr. Fisher located on the little island, just below the lower bridge. Owing to the long distance from the source of supply of the metal, of the market for the product being so far away, and with the lack of railroad transportation in those days, Mr. Fisher moved his then successful industry to Trenton, N. J., where he organized the Eagle Anvil and Wire Co., which subsequently developed into a very prosperous

business. Luke Gurney continued the foundry business here for a number of years after the removal of Mr. Fisher, and the enterprise was finally abandoned with the burning of the foundry buildings at the time the gang saw mill was destroyed by fire in the year 1868. This gang saw mill was located on the westerly side of the river, just below the lower bridge, where the flume to the woolen mill now is; it was first operated by Moore & Redington and by them sold to Shaw & Tracey, together with the dams and water privilege. As stated above, the saw mill was totally consumed by fire in the year 1868, and soon after that Shaw & Tracey sold the water privilege and dams to Nathan Merrill, who erected a saw and grist mill at the east end of the lower bridge. Mr. Merrill sold out to his son, Charles H. Merrill, who continued in the lumber and grist mill business for a number of years thereafter. The mill was destroyed by fire in the year 1879, the lower bridge catching fire from the burning mill and being consumed at the same time. Both bridge and mill were promptly rebuilt and Mr. Merrill continued the business until the sale of the entire property, comprising the water privilege, dam, mill, and land on both sides of the river, to the newly organized Newport Manufacturing Company in the spring of 1891. The latter company then leased the grist and saw mill to various parties from time to time until its total destruction by fire in the summer of 1900.

Another valuable industry to the town at one time, prior to the Civil War, was the large steam mill erected in the year 1857 by Davis & Crosby. This mill was located to the east of Elm Street in the village, just northerly of the railroad tracks and connected with the same by a siding, and did a considerable business in the sawing of hardwood box shook for export to foreign countries; the product being assembled in boxes for lemons and oranges, and almost our entire supply of these fruits coming in from abroad in those days. This mill was connected with the lake by a track on which cars were hauled by horses in the transportation of the logs from the water to the mill; a car would be run out on the track extending into the water until it would sink sufficiently to float the logs upon it; then, when loaded, the loaded car would be hauled to the mill by the

Scene on Main Street, Newport Village, Forty Years Ago

horses. In the time of the Civil War so many of the valuable cargoes were lost by the capture of the vessels carrying the product of this mill, by Confederate privateers, that the owners of the mill failed; the machinery was taken out, and, after standing as a monument to its former glory for some twenty years after dismantlement, the mill was destroyed by fire.

On the site of the present woolen mill for many years stood a grist mill, at which all kinds of grain and corn were ground into flour and meal. In the olden time farmers raised their own wheat and carried it to mill, where it was ground into flour for the use of the family, and many a barrel of excellent flour ground from native wheat has been headed up and delivered from the old grist mill; way back ere the railroad was built through the town this mill was an active industry. With the

Shaw House and High Street, 30 Years Ago

advent of modern methods of milling and the establishment of great mills in our western cities, this old-fashioned type of milling went out of existence; the machinery went into disuse; while the building itself remained a monument of its former activity until consumed by the inevitable flames a few years before the erection of the woolen mill in the year 1891.

The old cellar near the railroad tracks between the warehouse of Judkins and Gilman Co. and the stable owned by the Condensed Milk Co. marks the one-time location of the only shoe factory this town has ever had. About the year 1872 A. H. Walker came to Newport from Belfast, Maine, and, in company with Atkinson Hobart of this place, erected a shoe factory on this site, operating it under the style of A. H. Walker & Co. The following year Walker and Hobart sold to Elisha W. Shaw, Daniel Dudley and Dr. Byron Porter, who continued to carry on the business under the style of Dudley, Shaw & Co. until the loss of the entire property by fire in the year 1875.

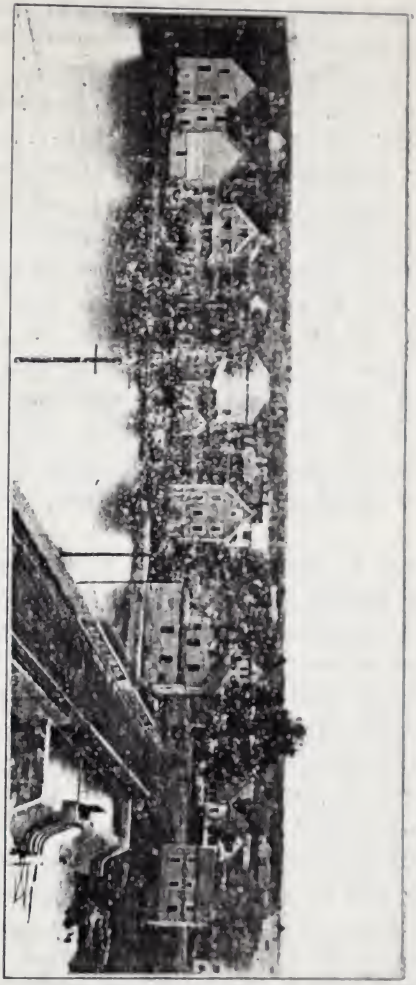
Beginning with the very earliest industries of the town it has ever been the policy of our citizens to encourage and assist prospective manufacturing establishments. At a special town meeting held March 23rd, 1836, it is recorded in the town records as follows: "Resolved, That we have examined the

Main Street, Newport Village, 50 Years Ago

petition of Wm. Martin and others to be incorporated under the name of the Newport Mill Dam & Manufacturing Co. and do cheerfully approve of the prayer therein contained. Resolved, 1—That in consideration of the advantages that must result to this town, we cheerfully consent that the property of said corporation may be exempted from taxation for the term of ten years. Resolved, 2—That in our opinion there is no interest either public or private that can be injured by the contemplated incorporation." In the year 1846 the Fisher & Southwick tannery buildings were burned and the town voted to exempt from taxation for that year. Same vote as to the Shaw & Tracy mill destroyed by fire in the year 1868.

At the town meeting of 1866 it was voted to exempt from taxation for ten years any corporation with a capital of not less than forty thousand dollars that might establish itself in this town for the purpose of manufacturing. In 1872 it was voted to exempt from taxation any manufacturing capital to the extent of $10,000 for the term of five years; $15,000 capital for seven years, and $20,000 capital for ten years, that might be established in this town. Under this last vote the shoe factory built that year was exempted. In the years 1881, 1884 and 1891 the town voted for exemption of taxes of capital invested in

manufacturing enterprises, and since the year 1891 similar action has been taken from time to time in relation to specific industries already established. In the year 1886 the town voted the sum of $1,000 towards the purchase of a hand fire engine, hose carriage and hose, and thus was made the commencement of our efficient fire department of more recent years, thereby inspiring confidence in the building up of modern industries and substantial residences that came with the awakening of Newport's citizens and the inauguration of industrial development in this town in the year 1891.



Main Steel Bridge and Concrete Dam of the Newport Woolen Co.

Newport of the Present Day

The dawn of the awakening of the business men and progressive citizens of Newport to the possibilities and advantages of this town as an industrial community started early in the year 1891, when the Newport Manufacturing Company was organized as a corporation with a capital of $50,000, nearly all of which sum was contributed by citizens of this town. The company purchased of Chas. H. Merrill the lower dam, with water privilege incidental thereto, land on both sides of the river below this dam, including the saw mill, store and tenement on Mill Street, penstock, flume, and the large tract of land on which the old grist mill once stood, and on this lot the woolen mill was erected that same year. The upper dam, with the water rights of the lake, had been sold to the Kennebec Fibre Company in the year 1889. Charles Sawyer was the President of the newly organized home company and no time was lost in getting things under way for the commencement of building operations.

About the same time of the organization of the Newport Woolen Company another corporation was formed and organized under the style of the Aroostook Condensed Milk Company, with Isaac C. Libby of Burnham as President and Thomas P. Beole of Boston as Treasurer, and building operations were commenced in the spring of 1891 on the large lot of land between Spring and Shaw Streets, next northerly of the Maine Central Railroad tracks; so that on the Fourth of July the work had progressed sufficiently to allow of the laying of the corner stone with imposing ceremonies. This Fourth of July (1891) will long be remembered by those present on that day at the placing of the corner stone of the milk factory and the breaking of ground for the commencement of work on the present woolen mill. The village was decorated in gala bunting, with many flags flying, while an immense arch of evergreen had been erected at the intersection of Main and Shaw Streets. This arch bore an inscription in large letters announcing the want of the milk of four thousand cows for the factory, when completed

Near by was a life-size representation of a cow, made of cedar boughs and white daisies. Large bright milk cans hung from the archway and were displayed about the village. Headed by the Corinna Band a procession was formed in the square in front of the Shaw House and marched to the grounds of the Newport Manufacturing Co., where, with appropriate exercises, President Charles Sawyer broke ground for the northeast corner of the proposed mill. The procession then counter-marched through Mill and Main Streets and down Shaw Street to the lot of the Condensed Milk Company, where the easterly wall of the new factory had already been laid and everything was in readiness for the placing of the corner stone at the northeast angle of the wall. This stone was laid in position with impressive ceremonies, consisting of prayer, depositing of suitable relics in a tin box by Treasurer Thos. P. Boole; after which the crowd cheered, cannon boomed and the band rendered more music. The procession then marched to Meridian Hall, where all who could, gained admission and listened to speeches by Congressman Seth L. Milliken, Hon. William T. Haines (then State Senator), Isaac C. Libby, Esq., Rev. David Boyd, and Thos. P. Boole. The meeting was closed with a song entitled "Onward, Newport People," composed by Miss Josie Rand and rendered under her direction by a chorus of thirteen voices. The hall had been profusely decorated for the occasion with flags, streamers, evergreen and flowering plants. Included in the procession were forty-four young ladies, appropriately dressed, representing the (then) states of the Union, headed by a young lady representing the Goddess of Liberty and carrying a large American flag; scholars of the public schools in red, white and blue colors; officers of the two newly organized corporations; invited guests; citizens; and the brass six-pounder field-piece, loaned by the Camp Benson Association. A like enthusiasm had never before been manifested in our town; the large posters advertising this celebration bore in bold-faced type the following headlines: "INDEPENDENCE DAY: NEWPORT: Come and Help Us Paint the Town Red: The Prince is Come, and Miss Newport, the SLEEPING BEAUTY, is to be Awakened by the Kiss of Business: In honor of which event the citizens will hold a GRAND JOLLIFICATION."

The Plant of The Newport Woolen Company

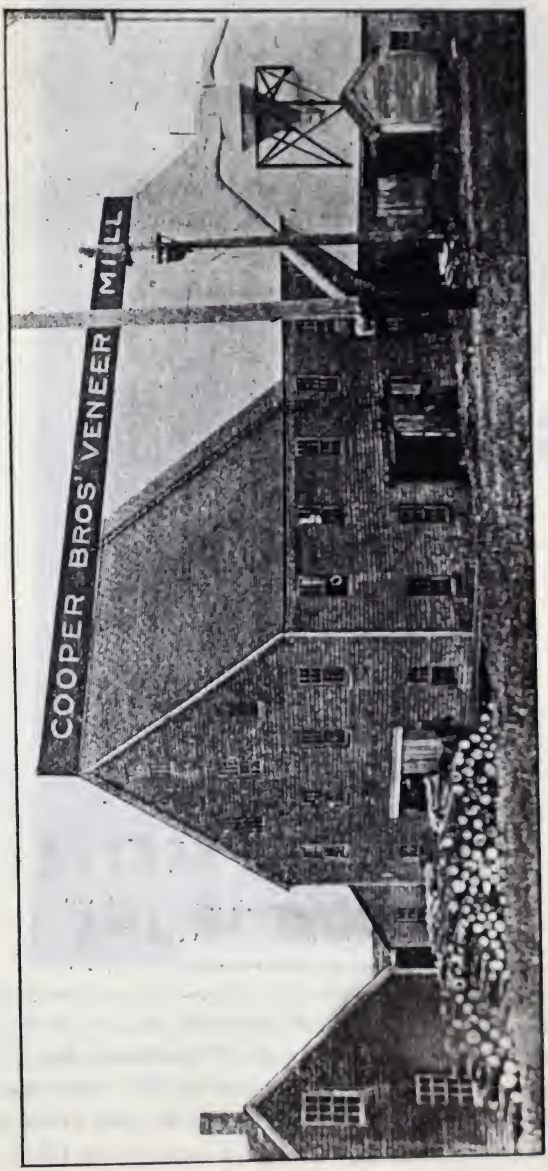
Newport was awakened and has remained awake ever since.

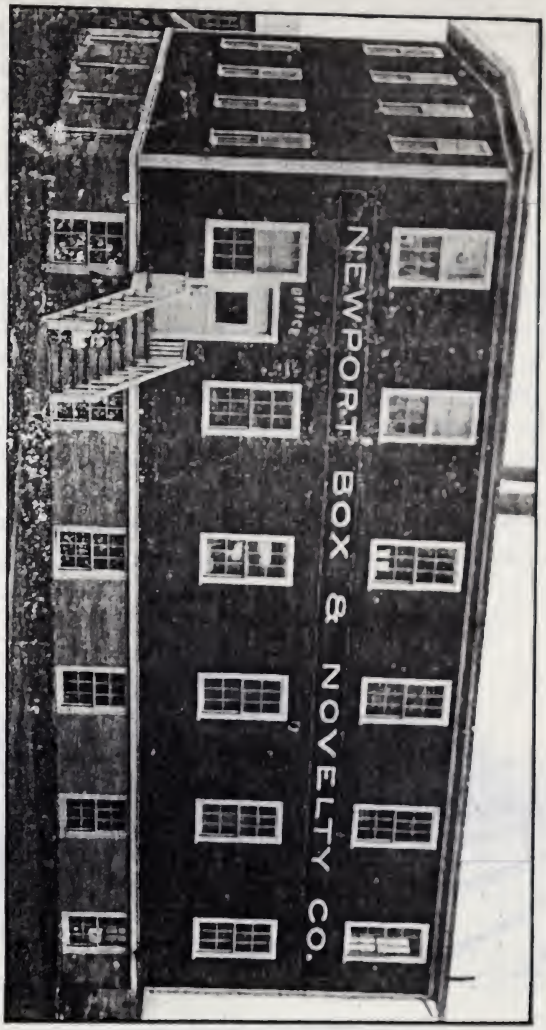
The woolen mill was completed about Christmas time of that same year and was formally dedicated with a grand ball in the evening; special trains being run to and from the same, bringing in a very large number of visitors. For awhile the mill was operated by a corporation organized under the style of "East Pond Manufacturing Company," with local officers. In the summer of 1896 the entire plant was sold to Gordon Dobson and John W. Manson of Pittsfield, Henry C. Fuller of Hartland and Ellis Jones of Hanover, Conn., and these gentlemen associated themselves into a corporation styled "Newport Woolen Company," commencenig the operation of the factory in the month of October, 1906, with Mr. Jones—who had for many

years been actively engaged in the manufacture of woolen cloth —as Superintendent. The following spring a large addition was built on to the factory and from time to time since then other improvements and additions have been made; particularly the concrete dam across the river just below the lower bridge, built in the year 1910 at an expense of over twenty-five thousand dollars. The mill has seven sets of cards and fifty-three looms and has been successfully operated by the present company for the past seventeen years, greatly to the advantage and prosperity of our town. Besides the mill and other property purchased by the company in 1896, several fine residences have been erected for the convenience of employes of the corporation, while Mr. Jones has built for the use of himself and his son—the present Superintendent—one of the most modern and desirable residences in our village.

The factory of the Aroostook Condensed Milk Company was for a while conducted by that corporation. In 1894 it was reorganized as the Maine Condensed Milk Co. and another factory was built at Whitefield, N. H. Both plants were sold to the Borden's Condensed Milk Co., Jan. 21st, 1902; since when the business has been continuously carried on by the last named corporation, and much of the prosperity of our neighboring farmers, and the increased value of their farms, has been brought about through the operation of this local factory. The

present Superintendent is F. M. Sherrard, a gentleman of extended experience in the business both here and at Whitefield.





In the year 1892, through the efforts of local citizens, Freeman B. and Alexander Cooper came to Newport from the town of Searsmont, and erected the large veneer mill on the shore of the lower cove of Lake Sebasticook, operating the same ever since under the style of Cooper Bros., and employing from fifty

to sixty men in season. A few years after the building of the veneer mill the Cooper Bros. erected fine residences for themselves near their mill. In the year 1906, in company with P. L. Oakes, they built the plant known as the Newport Box & Novelty Co., thereby employing from fifteen to twenty more men in a fire-proof building, 40 by 60 feet, equipped with the very latest up-to-date machinery for the manufacture of wooden novelties. Alexander Cooper died in the summer of 1913, and very recently a corporation has been organized under the style of Cooper Bros. Co., with Freeman B. Cooper as President, Percy L. Oakes as Treasurer, and Mrs. Arline Cooper as Secretary, for the purpose of carrying on the entire business formerly done by Cooper Bros. and Newport Box & Novelty Co.

The following year (1803) Messrs. Davis & Baxter of the Portland Packing Co., located a branch at Newport and erected the corn packing factory known as Cannery No. 11.

Factory of the Portland Packing Co.

Wallace E. Rackliffe was appointed Superintendent of this branch, a position he has ably filled ever since; the factory building was enlarged in the year 1898, and again in 1911, with outbuildings and sheds convenient for the business of the company, and a large amount of corn is put up in season; many

carloads of the product being annually shipped to points outside the state. During the canning season many people of all ages and both sexes are given employment at this factory, and the industry has proved itself to be remunerative to the farmers as well.

In the year 1902 J. H. Weymouth came to Newport from Bangor and established the wool pullery industry, known as the Weymouth Wool Co. The following year the plant—then in successful operation and employing a large force of workmen—was sold to the Swift Co. of Boston and since then has been conducted as a branch of the Consolidated Rendering Co of Boston, Mr. Weymouth remaining as manager of this plant until his death in the summer of 1912, since when the management has been under the direction of his son, Carl R. Weymouth. In 1904 a large scouring mill was added, with improved machinery and equipment throughout, and in the year 1910 an extensive addition was built on to the pullery building With convenient railroad tracks and facilities for handling the many carloads of western sheep pelts that are received annually, and for the shipment of the products of the pullery and scouring factories, the company afford employment to many men through the autumn and winter months, and well into the spring, and the business is a profitable one for our town.

The Newport Light & Power Co. was organized as a corporation in the year 1902 and took over the property at Newport and Detroit that had been acquired by the Smith & Sturtevant Co. the previous year, Mr. Chas. E. Smith remaining as Treasurer and Manager of the company. The business of the company has steadily increased from year to year, with the development of our village, and recently a 100 K. W. power dynamo was installed at the plant of the company in Detroit. At the present time, in addition to the large number of electric lights furnished residences, stores, offices and factories, the company maintain eighty lights for the purpose of lighting our village streets, and no village of its size has better lighted streets than our own.

Where The Kingsbury Moccasins are Made

Emmons W. Kingsbury, formerly of Bradford, Maine, but a resident of Newport Village since 1897, commenced the manufacture of Indian moccasins in the year 1902. Starting in a modest way, the business has steadily increased and about five years ago a tannery was built for use in connection with the increased demands of the trade. A corporation to carry on the moccasin business was organized in 1905, and the present officers are Emmons W. Kingsbury, President; John E. Kingsbury, Treasurer; Edward J. Kingsbury, Secretary. The output of this factory is recognized as a standard of merit, the goods being all hand made.

All these varied industries have brought prosperity to the entire town; the population increasing from 1188 by the census of 1890, to 1747 by that of 1910, while in the same period the valuation increased from $404,376 to $854,800. For the year 1914 the town assessors show the valuation to be $881,150, with 500 polls and 462 scholars of school age. Our merchants have benefited by the increase of trade that this prosperity has brought, and much of this benefit is derived from the patronage of citizens of adjoining towns who are quick to realize that Newport's business men are enterprising and carry up-to-date stocks of goods. A local Board of Trade is maintained and the officers are keenly alive to whatever is needed to add to the progress of the town. The President of this organization is Judson E. Oakes, with Charles M. Barbour Secretary.

The beautiful Lake Sebasticook has a reputation far and wide for its excellent white perch fishing, while cottages and summer homes fringe its shores, affording healthful recreation for our

"The Elms" on Grove Street

citizens and visitors alike. Many of the latter come here every season and enjoy their vacations in cottages, summer hotels, and as guests of our citizens, and the number of those who annually visit our town is increasing from year to year.

Newport Village

Prior to the opening of the Penobscot & Kennebec Railroad (now the Maine Central) in 1855 this village was a great stage center between Skowhegan and Bangor, and, until the opening of the Dexter & Newport Railroad in 1869, stages were run between Newport and Moosehead Lake, with a line between Newport and Dexter. At times there was lively competition between the owners of competing lines and passengers often benefited accordingly. Large stables were maintained here and the local hotels did a good business. Prominent among the latter was the Newport House, conducted by Russ Pratt and situated where the present Main Street block of stores now stands, with livery extending back to the lot now owned by the Odd Fellows. In the year 1860 Benjamin Shaw commenced to build the well-known Shaw House, finishing it two years later, and for more than half a century this popular hostelry has served the public

under a succession of varied ownerships and managements. The Shaw House is now owned and ably managed by the Worster Bros.

Scene on Main Street, Newport Village, at the Present Time

In the month of October, 1862, the Newport House was totally destroyed by fire, together with the extensive liveries and sheds connected with it. Samuel Pratt, who owned the land on which the hotel stood, then sold it in lots fronting on Main St. to various parties, and these parties united in the erection of the present Main St. Block in the year 1866. The block as we see it today was remodeled in 1910, when the tall pitch roof was changed to a flat one of fireproof construction.

The first church erected in the village was made possible by the subscriptions of money from those representing different denominations; this was the beginning of the High Street Union Meeting House Society. The work on the church edifice was begun and finished in the year 1837, the dedicatory services being participated in by clergymen of the several denominations represented by the pew owners, and the church was for a num-

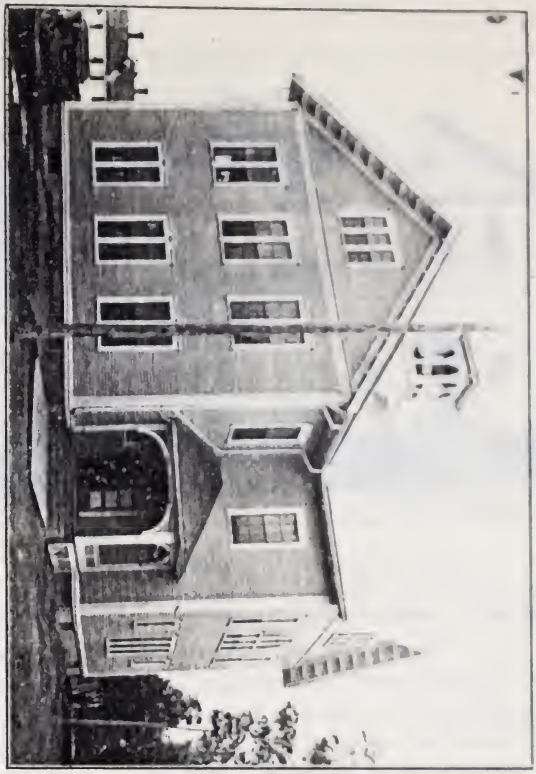
ber of years thereafter occupied by the Methodist, Baptist, Congregationalist and Universalist Societies; each of these denominations being represented in the pulpit one Sabbath in each month. In the year 1859 the Methodists built for themselves a house of worship on Shaw Street, corner of Middle; this edifice was used by that society until its sale in the spring of 1901 to the newly organized K. of P. Lodge here, but before the order could occupy it for lodge purposes, fire, catching from sparks blown by the high wind of May 17th, 1901, from the burning railroad freight house, burned it to the ground.

M. E. Church, Newport Village

The present fine church edifice of the Methodist Episcopal Society, located at the corner of Main and Spring Streets in our village, was completed and dedicated in the spring of 1902; including the land on which the church stands, the total cost was about ten thousand dollars. Rev. H. W. Norton is the pastor of this society. The parsonage belonging to the society is located on High Street and was originally built, and, for a number of years thereafter, used as an Academy. The Ladies' Aid Society is a valuable adjunct to the cause of the Church.

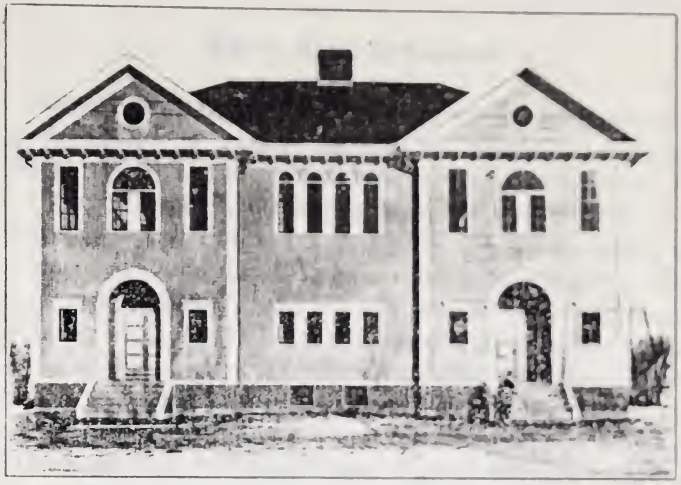
High Street Union Church, Newport Village

The first church edifice in town, erected in the year 1837, and now owned by the High Street Union Meeting House Society, was entirely remodeled and rebuilt in the year 1902 at an expense of about six thousand five hundred dollars, making it one of the most modern and attractive houses of worship to be found anywhere. At the rear, and connected with the vestry, are convenient accommodations for the U. B. B. Society, as the ladies' auxiliary to this church is called. Rev. R. L. Kimball is the pastor of this Society at the present time, and the friends of the Church are now planning on the building of a suitable parsonage in the near future.



Newport High School

This building is the modernized High School Building of this town. Originally built in the year 1874 as District No. 2 school house, it was used for district schools, graded schools and High School, until the growth of our village made it imperative to provide more room for the scholars. In the year 1910 the building was entirely remodeled and equipped with modern conveniences in the work of education, the upper story being set apart for the use of the High School, while the lower story is used for Grammar grades. This year there are thirty-six scholars attending the High School and sixty-six attending the Grammar grades. Between four and five thousand dollars were expended by the committee in charge of the work of remodeling and changing over this building as we now see it.



Graded School House, Newport Village

No town of its size can boast of finer school advantages than those possessed by Newport at the present time. In the year 1910 a large lot of land, fronting on Shaw Street for a distance of some three hundred and twenty feet, was purchased by the town and a new school building erected for the use of the Intermediate and Primary grades; this lot of land adjoins the old school house lot, and the whole is located near to the center of our village, an ideal location. The entire cost to the town of this new building, including land, grading, walks, etc., was about fifteen thousand dollars. The number of scholars in the Primary grades is fifty-six; in the Intermediate grades eighty-five, as per the last report of the Superintendent; giving a total of two hundred and forty-three scholars attending our village schools.

About three miles from the village, on the road to Corinna, the Gilman District (so-called) school house is located, and here nineteen scholars are enrolled.

Fire Department

Although maintained by the entire town, the operation of the fire department is mostly confined, by necessity, to Newport Village. With a hand tub and hose carriage purchased in 1886 as a commencement, the department has grown until in the year 1924 it was regularly organized by vote of the town, with a code of by-laws, Chief Engineer and two assistants, whose names may be found in the list of town officers in the front of this book. In 1929 the town purchased a six-cylinder, 75 H. P. Howe Gasoline Engine for better protection of property against fire, and the wisdom of this action has been manifested a number of times since this addition to the fire-fighting equipment of the town, both in Newport and Corinna villages. This year a hand chemical tank has been added, and ample equipment is maintained at all times, with an enrolled membership of thirty-eight men in the department, thoroughly drilled and efficient in the fighting of fire. The members are now providing themselves with uniforms, and, when so equipped, it will be the largest uniformed company of call men of any town in the State of Maine.

Secret Orders

Meridian Splendor Lodge, No. 49, F. & A. M., bears the distinction of being the oldest secret society in town; having been instituted on July 18th, 1826; chartered and regularly constituted on July 4th, 1828, with imposing ceremonies; the charter membership was eight; at the present time the Lodge has a membership of one hundred and fifty-six, with convenient accommodations, and much interest is shown in the work of the order. The regular meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month.

Stevens Royal Arch Chapter, No. 28, F. & A. M., was instituted on July 1st, 1868, under a charter issued from the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Maine, with a membership of fourteen; previous to this time the Chapter had been holding meetings

under dispension, commencing with the month of October, 1867. The institution of this society was quite an event in the history of the town; there being a parade of Meridian Splendor and several other visiting lodges, with bands from St. Albans and Carmel; the corner stone of Meridian Hall building (now Odd Fellows' Hall) was laid with impressive Masonic ceremonies, followed by the formal constituting of the Chapter in the High Street church. The present membership of this society is ninety-two and regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month.

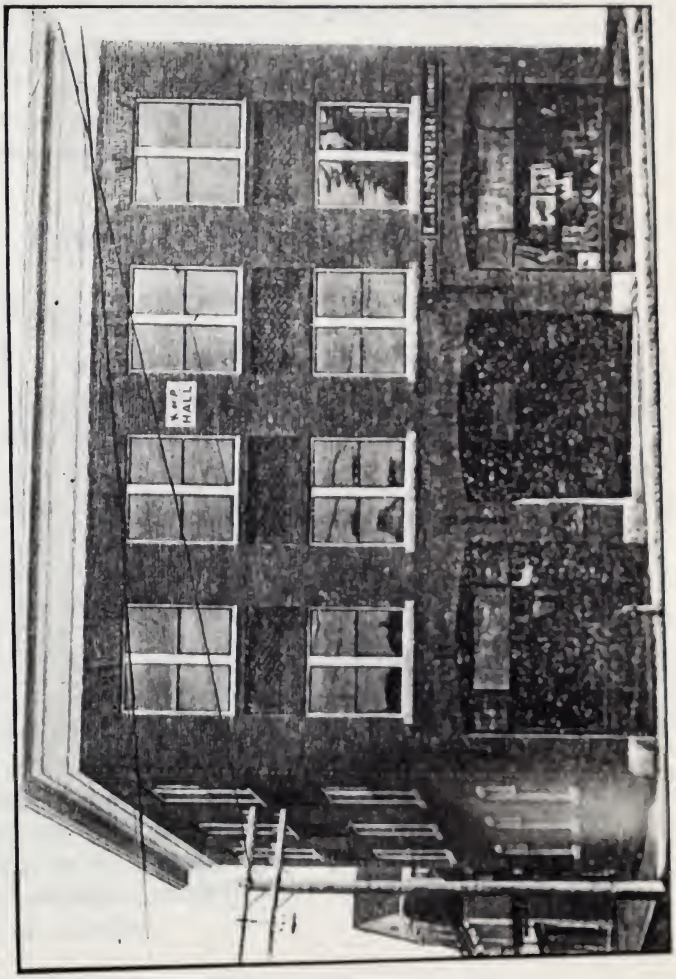
Old Hickory Lodge, No. 105, I. O. O. F., was instituted on Dec. 7th, 1883, with six charter members. Meetings were held in the same lodge room with the Masonic societies, Meridian Hall, and the property was purchased by Old Hickory Lodge, Dec. 9th, 1896; since when the Lodge has expended large sums of money in the improvement of the premises, so that today the order is justly proud of possessing as comfortable and convenient accommodations as may be found in a town of this size anywhere; recent changes and improvements have made an ideal public hall in the first story of the building, with all modern conveniences. The present membership of this lodge is about two hundred. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening.

Victoria Rebekah Lodge, No. 74, I. O. O. F., was instituted March 18, 1896, with ninety members; the present membership is one hundred and forty-four, and the Rebekah Lodge has proved itself to be a very valuable aid in the work of Odd Fellowship. Meetings are held on the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month.

Nokomis Chapter, No. 42, O. E. S., was organized Jan. 25th, 1897, and formally instituted September 9th, 1897, with thirty charter members; the present membership of this Chapter is one hundred and forty-three, and the society is to the Masonic order what the Rebekah Lodge is to Odd Fellowship. Meetings are held the first and third Monday evenings of each month in the Masonic Hall.

Sebasticook Grange, No. 306, P. of H., was instituted Dec. 26th, 1889, with seventeen original charter members. This

Grange has been prosperous from its first organization, and within a few years has purchased valuable real estate on Main Street in our village, fitting up a most convenient hall, kitchen and dining room, and these are in steady demand for use by other societies for the purpose of serving public dinners and holding fairs, being on the ground floor and centrally located. The present membership of this Grange is a little over one hundred. Meetings are held Thursday evenings.



Victory Lodge, No. 28, K. of P., was instituted April 25th, 1901, with a membership of fifty; the present membership is one hundred and three. This order purchased the old Methodist church building, soon after organization, and, this building burning within a few days thereafter, the lodge was without a suitable home until the summer of 1908, when it occupied convenient rooms in the newly erected brick block of the Waterville Trust Company (now owned by the Kennebec Trust Company). The lodge has the use of the entire third story of this modern block and holds meetings every Friday evening.

Triumph Temple, No. 5, Pythian Sisters, the ladies auxiliary to the K. of P. order, was organized March 24th, 1910, with thirty-five charter members; the present membership is sixty-two and regular meetings are held every Wednesday evening.

Patriotic Associations

Prior to the year 1884 the veterans of the civil war were obliged to go to Corinna in order to become members of a Post of the G. A. R. In this year H. G. Libby Post, No. 118, was instituted in Newport Village with some twenty charter members. The membership doubled within a few years, but by reason of lapse of time and no new recruits for this organization, the membership at the present time has dropped to about a dozen veterans. This Post was named after Hollis G. Libby, the first Newport volunteer to lay down his life in the great war of the rebellion. And in this connection it is but fit to add that no town in the State of Maine was more loyal to the Union cause than Newport. More men went to the front from here than was called for on the quota against the town. One hundred and forty-nine men enlisted, twenty-eight of whom re-enlisted; making a total of one hundred and seventy-seven men from Newport, or one in every eight of the population of the town at that time. Sixty-two of these volunteers were either killed in action, died in prison or of wounds, or were discharged by disability before the completion of their terms of service, a very large percentage of casualties.

As in the furnishing of men for the front, so likewise did the town contribute money and supplies in aid of its volunteers and their families. During the four years of the war the town expended for these purposes the sum of twenty-seven thousand one hundred and seven dollars and eighty cents ($27,107.80), the bulk of this large sum being paid in bounties to those who enlisted. The value of hospital stores, clothing, etc., contributed by citizens of the town was estimated at $1,750.00. In addition to these large sums, the town, with a valuation of less than $300,000, (in 1860, $250,534), paid a state tax of $3,761.50 in the year 1865, and that same year raised the sum of $17,000 for town charges, the bulk of which was to pay outstanding town orders for money hired on account of the expenses of the war.

In the Spanish war of 1898, and the Philippine insurrection immediately following, Newport furnished many volunteers, some of whom gave their lives in the following of the flag.

The Woman's Relief Corps was instituted Dec. 31st, 1894, with eighteen members; the present membership is about twenty-five.

J. W. Webster Camp, No. 61, Sons of Veterans, was organized in 1902 and is a valuable adjunct to the G. A. R.

Five years ago a fund was started by the ladies of the Relief Corps for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument in honor of the brave sons of Newport who sacrificed their lives in defense of the Union. In 1912 these patriotic ladies became incorporated under the name of "Newport Monument Association" and a substantial beginning has been made towards raising the necessary amount for a Soldiers' Monument. It is hoped that the time is not far distant when the efforts of these ladies will be fully realized and the town will have a fitting monument to commemorate the deeds of valor and sacrifices made by the volunteers from this town in the great conflict of the civil war.

It would not be fitting to conclude the list of organizations in Newport Village without making mention of the Band, Ralph H. Dyer, leader. Usually the Band comes first, and certainly our Band is among the first in merit of any similar or-

ganization to be found in any town of our State. The members take great interest in the rehearsals and the results of their labors are always in evidence whenever we are favored with band concerts, and all of our citizens take a just pride in the excellency and worth of this Band whenever and wherever it appears in public.

Newport Village has broad streets, with many shade trees of Elm and Maple; concrete sidewalks; an extensive system of sewers; water works, furnishing water from a spring-fed lake some two miles from the village; well lighted streets; night watchman; municipal court; bank; convenient railroad facilities; a well patronized telephone exchange with both day and night service; many stores, offices and shops. All these, with the churches, schools, societies and industries already mentioned, together with beautiful Lake Sebasticook; the river flowing through the center of the village; and the fine farms all around us; combine to make Newport Village an ideal location for those seeking business opportunities, as well as for those seeking health and recreation. Lake Sebasticook is well known for its abundance of fresh water fish of every variety, especially white perch, and is one of the greatest attractions of our town.

Rustic Scene on Sebasticook River, Newport, Maine

East Newport

This section of the town was first settled in 1810 by Isaac Lawrence on the old Lawrence road, so called, near Lake Sebasticook. Here may be seen the remains of old cellars and orchards, showing where Isaac Lawrence and his three sons, John, James and Eleazer, once lived.

One of the most interesting places in the eastern part of the town is the old "Spaulding House," located at the junction of the Bangor and Stetson roads, at what was formerly known as Marsh's Corner. This house was built about 1845, and for many years was a half-way place between Waterville and Bangor for the stage and teams to stop at. The big door-yard used to be filled with wagons at noon-time.

After the railroad was built it was less profitable and has not been used as a tavern since about the year 1874. The last landlord was Noah Marsh, whose daughters are still residents of this town. The bar of the old house is still in existence, and no doubt liquor flowed freely there at one time. In the attic is a

dance hall with a spring floor, and many gay times were enjoyed there in the old days. The place is now owned and occupied by the family of the late Rev. David Boyd.

The Old Spaulding Tavern at East Newport Four Corners

A Methodist church society provides for religious services in Union Hall every Sunday afternoon; Rev. H. W. Norton of

Newport Village conducting the service. Eastville Grange, No. 426, P. of H., was organized Feb. 9th, 1904, with 27 charter members; the membership is now 107; meetings are held in Union Hall Saturday evenings.

Quite an amount of business is done at East Newport and a stage runs twice a day to and from the towns of Plymouth and Dixmont.

The graded schools at East Newport have an attendance of forty scholars; during the year 1913 an addition was built onto the school house so it now has two recitation rooms; this was done at an expense of $1333.50 to the town.

Colcords Landing, near East Newport

A picturesque scene at the southerly extremity of Lake Sebasticook, near East Newport. No more desirable spot on the shore of this lake can be found than Colcord's Landing.

A Sketch of North Newport

The first permanently settled part of the town, comprising an area of nearly 6000 acres, nearly all of which is excellent farming land, bounded on the north by Corinna, on the east by Stetson, on the south by the East Inlet, or Stetson Stream, and on the west by the North Inlet; many of the present inhabitants of this part of the town are directly descended from the early pioneer settlers—of rugged, sterling character, industrious and persevering; these traits have been handed down to the present generation. The dairying industry is carried on to a large extent here and much of the milk is sent to the Condensed Milk factory in Newport Village.

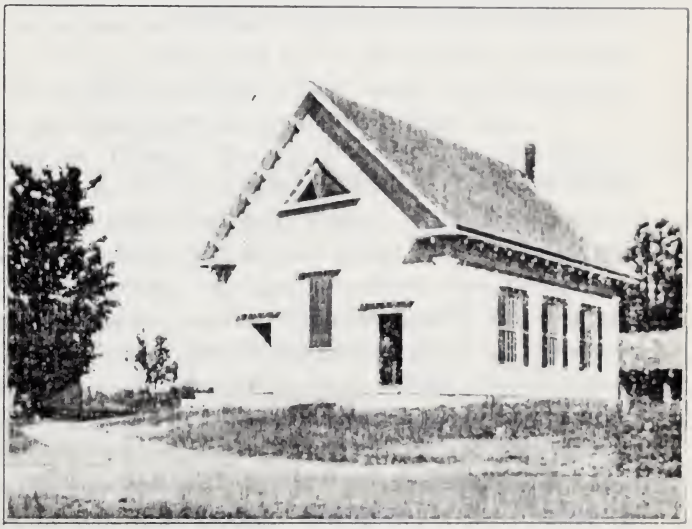
In 1814, when the town was incorporated, the inhabitants of this section numbered 95; in 1850 the number was about 350, with three school houses accommodating 85 scholars, and eighteen miles of roads (about two-fifths of the entire mileage in the town).

CHURCH, SCHOOLS AND GRANGE

As early as June 22nd, 1817, a Baptist church was organized here, the first services being held in the school house in the east district, which was located a few rods east of the present residence of Frank Ireland, facing the road; the first pastor being Rev. Mr. Robinson. Later on came Rev. Robert Coburn, a Calvinist Baptist; and his family, from Bloomfield in 1824; after that services were held in the old school house near Coburn's Corner. About 1840 a church of the Christian denomination was organized and services held in the east district school house, while the Rev. Mr. Coburn continued to hold services in the Coburn Corner school building. In those days the families were large and nearly all attended church; the school houses became so crowded at times that planks had to be placed across the seats and chairs brought in to provide seats for those who attended religious worship.

In the winter of 1856 the North Newport people began to

plan to build a church large enough to accommodate both societies. As much of the primeval forest was still standing, timber was plenty and the farmers had the lumber sawed and hauled to the spot by the following spring. The contract for building was let to Abiah Steward (son of Thomas Steward, who moved here with his family from Bloomfield in 1812). The site was purchased of Benjamin Steward, chosen because it was midway between the two school houses, as now located, at Coburn's Corner, and the east, or Hubbard district. The Baptists occupied the west side of the new church, while those of the Christian persuasion occupied the east side, being the sides next to the school houses where they had previously worshiped, respectively. The first pastor of the Christian denomination was Rev. Moses F. Davis and he presided over the destinies of that church for twenty-nine years.



Church at North Newport

October 23rd, 1907, the Church observed its seventieth anniversary, after having been thoroughly repaired, shingled, painted and a steel ceiling added. Rev. Henry A. Arnold of Corinna is the present pastor, having served for ten years past,

and under his leadership the interest and attendance is well kept up. The ladies have an organization called the Willing Workers, and this society is of material assistance to the church.

The first school house was built about the year 1822 on the North County road, near the watering place just below the Hilliker farm of today. The entire territory of North Newport was then in one district (No. 4) and Miss Amanda Barker of Exeter taught the school, with fifty-two pupils. In 1830 that part of North Newport now known as Rutland was set off as District No. 5; while the school house in District No. 6 was moved to a site east of the residence of Frank Ireland and designated as No. 4. A new school house was soon after built on Lot 7, Range 5, and known as the Coburn Corner, or District No. 6 school; this school house stood on the opposite side of the road from where the present Coburn Corner school house is located. There are at the present time two school houses in No. Newport; one in the east, or Hubbard district, near the residence of J. E. Patten, with 14 pupils, and one in the Coburn Corner district with 22 pupils; the former school house was erected over sixty years ago; the latter one about forty years ago.

North Newport Grange, No. 195, P. of H., was organized in the year 1875, with Horace Quimby, Master; Philander Whiting, Secy., and Stephen Steward, Treas. There were twenty-seven charter members, only two of whom are now living and retain their membership. At that time there were no Granges in this or the adjoining towns, and consequently the membership was large, more so than at the present time; for since then Granges have been instituted at Newport Village, East Newport, Corinna and Stetson. On the enrollment book of North Newport Grange there have been 226 members since its organization; of this number 48 have died and a very large number have withdrawn to join new Granges instituted in the districts in which they resided. The membership for the past few years has averaged about sixty, and meetings are held on Tuesday evenings. The present master is Dinsmore S. Hilliker, who has recently purchased one of the oldest residences in this section of the town and completely remodeled the buildings, add-

ing all modern conveniences and making it one of the very finest of the large number of fine farms in our town.

"A Modern Farm House" Home of D. S. Hilliker Master of North Newport Grange, P. of H.

During the past ten years material development in the summer resort business has been made on the northeasterly shore of Lake Sebasticook, for here may be caught the finest perch to be found anywhere. On the shore of what is now known as Turner's Cove Nathaniel Burrill settled in the year 1807, and in that same year (possibly the year following) he erected the first frame house in Newport. This place is now owned by Hubert E. Turner, who has added materially to the house and made it of sufficient size to accommodate some forty summer guests in each year, together with cottages scattered along the shore where many more are cosily lodged. In the remodeling of the old house the quaint old stairway and the old fashioned fire place were preserved by Mr. Turner.

Turner's, Showing Historic Willows on the right

The large willow trees to be seen on the right sprung from a goad stick used by Nathaniel Burrill on his journey hither from Bloomfield in 1807; Mr. Burrill stuck the goad stick into the fertile soil on the shore of the cove and from it grew the mammoth trees of today.

One riding through this section of the town cannot but notice the air of thrift, as manifested by the neat and attractive farm houses, many of them with modern conveniences; of the well tilled farms, as evidenced by the green fields and growing crops; and the fine herds of Holstein cattle.

Centennial Committee

Sec., C. M. Barbour

Treas., W. E. Rackliffe

General

W. H. Mitchell
C. E. Smith
E. R. Dow

Finance

P. L. Oakes
J. O. Gilman
O. R. Emerson

Historical

W. H. Mitchell
A. L. Oakes
Miss Flora Boyd
Miss Eva Hilton
Mrs. W. D. Crowell
E. W. Smith

Invitations

E. R. Leach
S. P. Judkins
Mrs. S. P. Judkins
Mrs. Annie Dexter
Mrs. C. E. Smith
R. A. Deering

Parade

W. M. Stuart
C. E. Jones
Mrs. F. E. Hallowell
Mrs. E. W. Sherbourne
Mrs. W. H. Mitchell
Mrs. H. L. Miles
Miss Effie Moore
F. M. Deering
George J. Payne
W. E. Wilson
W. D. Crowell
W. H. Blanchard
F. R. Coburn
Florence Littlefield
Mr. D. S. Hilliker
Mrs. D. S. Hilliker
Mrs. Ida Morrill
Mrs. Elizabeth Slosberg
Mrs. S. E. Ramsdell
Mrs. Hattie Chase
W. C. McCue
Robert C. Chadbourne
Aids:
H. J. Carson
M. A. Seaney
Dr. J. J. McVety
Dr. W. H. Corey
Lyndon Oakes

Souvenirs and Badges

H. M. Wardwell
Mrs. W. E. Rackliffe
Mrs. E. R. Dow

Reception

J. E. Oakes
Mrs. J. E. Oakes
George Plummer
Mr. & Mrs. P. E. Carey
Mr. & Mrs. F. R. Coburn
Mr. & Mrs. Parker Littlefield
Mr. & Mrs. W. E. Rackliffe
Mr. & Mrs. Danvers Cram

Sunday Services

Rev. Mr. Norton
Rev. Mr. Kimball
Mrs. F. E. Adams

Entertainment and Sports

F. W. Halliday
F. B. Burns
B. G. Croxford
C. R. Weymouth
A. C. Bradbury
Mrs. A. G. Shorey
Mrs. P. L. Oakes
F. R. Wiggin

Decorations

L. B. Soper
H. H. Rich
Blake McKenney
A. G. Hanson
G. M. Barrows
F. H. Fernald
F. P. Cook
Mrs. E. W. Stuart
Mrs. C. E. Jones

Public Improvement and Utilities

E. R. Dow
A. B. Rice
Harry Carson
R. J. Weeks
C. L. Pingree
A. G. Shorey

Music

R. H. Dyer
W. R. Bennett
Mrs. A. L. Oakes

Printing and Advertising

C. E. Smith
A. W. Lander
J. O. Gilman
C. T. Libby
D. B. Jones

Official Program

Centennial Celebration

Newport, Maine, SATURDAY, June 13, 1914

A. M.

8:30 Parade of Children under five years of age; Main Street.

9:30 Trades and Civic Parade. Route: Upper Elm St. to Main, to Mill, to Railroad, to Spring, to Main, to West, to North, to High, to Main, to Water, to Elm, to Main, to Shaw, and disband.

Parade of Automobiles follow same route immediately after.

11:30 220 Yard Dash, Water St., between Middle and Main Sts.

11:40 440 Yard Dash, Water St.

11:50 Mile Race, starting on Main St., front of Bank Block.

P. M.

1:00 AT SCHOOL GROUNDS

Concert by Consolidated Bands.

1:15 Exhibition Drill of Bondazee Co. No. 14, Uniform Rank K. of P., Madison, Maine., in full uniform.

2:00 Singing of Star Spangled Banner by School Children, followed by Oration by Hon. Reuel Robinson of Camden, Maine.

3:15 AT RING'S FIELD.

Base Ball Game, followed by Standing Broad Jump; Putting the Shot; Horse Shoe Contest. Obstacle Race. Throwing Base Ball. Barrel Race. Running Broad Jump. High Jump.

6:15 Boat Parade around Lake for benefit of former residents.

Exhibition of Antiques at Town Hall during the day. Moving Pictures at Odd Follows' Hall, continuous from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M. and from 7 to 9 P. M.

Starter for all Athletic Events, Lt. D. I. Gould of Bangor.

Official Program

Centennial Celebration

Newport, Maine, SUNDAY, June 14, 1914

2:30 P. M. School House Grounds, weather permitting; otherwise Odd Fellows Hall.

Song Service, Rev. R. L. Kimball, Director

Scripture Reading

Selection by Male Quartette

Prayer by Rev. C. N. Garland of Rockland, Me.

Singing

Sermon by Bishop John W. Hamilton, D. D., L. L. D., of Boston.

Singing

Benediction

6057